

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Joe Barton
Chairman Emeritus, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Legislative Hearing on Anti Spoofing, LPTV, and E-LABEL”
July 24, 2014**

Today, I have two pieces of legislation being discussed that I have been working diligently on: H.R. 3670, the Anti-Spoofing Act of 2014 and the LPTV and Translator Preservation Act of 2014.

Representative Grace Meng and I have been working closely on H.R. 3670 to modernize the Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009 to include text messaging services, IP-enabled voice services, and to hold foreign spoofing services accountable to the law. Due to the many conversations had with various stakeholders, it would be my intention, if this bill went to a markup, to offer an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to address all concerns.

There have been a number of spoofing incidents this year alone to include one in Abilene, TX reported last Friday when a person pretended to work for a roofing company in order to collect money up-front from the customers¹. Another incident was reported on July 7, 2014 involving Bank of America and someone commented on the story that they received text messages from what appeared to be Bank of America, directing them to call

¹ <http://www.ktxs.com/news/phone-spoofing-crime-surfaces-in-abilene/27017160>

a number concerning a problem with their account, to later realize that it was just a scam.²

I am proud to see that the majority of my colleagues on this subcommittee have cosponsored this bill, including you Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Anna Eshoo, and it is my hope to see this bill move forward through the committee to have a vote taken on the House Floor.

As for the LPTV and Translator Preservation Act, I am happy to have worked with you Mr. Chairman to highlight the LPTV industry during the incentive auction process. As current law stands, LPTV broadcasters carry a secondary license to full power stations, which means that a LPTV broadcaster could potentially lose the spectrum they hold in the incentive auction. While this bill does not guarantee additional rights, it does provide the LPTV community with a stronger moral position and enhanced standing before the Federal Communications Commission.

I have worked with the National Association of Broadcasters, Advanced Television Broadcast Alliance, National Translators Association, and the National Religious Broadcasters on this issue. It is my belief that this bill should become law to ensure that the FCC does not easily overlook the important services offered by the LPTV industry and TV translators. I hope to see this bill move forward.

² <http://www.azcentral.com/story/money/business/consumer/call-12-for-action/2014/07/06/debit-card-phishing-scam-call12/12275239/>